

Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair Honorable Bruce McPherson, Vice Chair

# 2003 Historic Southern California Fires: An Assessment One Year Later

A Review of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission Report

The Summary Report from the Informational Hearing

October 5, 2004 • War Memorial Building • 3325 Zoo Drive • San Diego

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Chair Senator Bruce McPherson, Vice-Chair Senator Sam Aanestad Senator Roy Ashburn Senator Wesley Chesbro Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny Assemblymember Bob Dutton Assemblymember Jerome Horton Assemblymember Doug La Malfa Assemblymember Jay La Suer Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod Senator Don Perata Senator Nell Soto

### CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

1020 N Street, Suite 539 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 322-4816 Fax: (916) 341-5244

> Royce Saunders, Consultant



## Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security

TO:

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY SERVICES AND

HOMELAND SECURITY

FROM:

CHRISTINE KEHOE, CHAIR

SUBJECT:

HEARING REPORT TRANSMITTAL

DATE:

**NOVEMBER 12, 2004** 

The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security met on October 5, 2004, in San Diego to hear the status of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission recommendations.

The result of that hearing is contained in the attached Hearing Report. I would like to thank all those who provided written and oral testimony to the Joint Committee. I would also like to recognize the work of the Firefighters Coalition who provided the Joint Committee with the enclosed matrix detailing the progress on the forty-eight recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission.

Additional copies of the Hearing Report can be obtained through the Joint Committee. Please contact Royce E. Saunders, Principal Consultant, at (916) 322-4816 with questions or comments on the report.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
Hearing Agenda	1
Findings	3
Recommendations	7
Joint Legislative Committee Action Items	9
Commission Recommendation Matrix	10
Written Testimony:	
Senator William Campbell (Ret.), Chairman Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission	38
Michael Dayton, Deputy Director California Office of Homeland Security	42
Dallas Jones, Treasurer California Professional Firefighters	45
Frank McCarton, Chief Deputy Director Governor's Office of Emergency Services	47
Honorable Jim Venable Third District Supervisor Riverside County	52

### **HEARING AGENDA**

### **Opening Remarks**

Hon. Christine Kehoe, Chair Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security

Hon. William Campbell (Ret.), Chair Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

Assemblymember Jay La Suer 77th Assembly District

Senator Nell Soto 32nd Senate District

### Fire Fighters

William Bamattre, Chair California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

Jeff Bowman, Chief City of San Diego Fire - Rescue Department

P. Michael Freeman, Chief Los Angeles County Fire Department

Rick Martinez, Chief Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

William McCammon, President California Fire Chiefs Association

Lou Paulson, President California Professional Firefighters

Ray Quintanar, Director Fire & Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service, Region 5

Chip Prather, Chief Orange County Fire Authority

Bob Wolf, President California Department of Forestry Firefighters

### State Agencies

Dale Geldert, Director California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Frank McCarton, Chief Deputy Director Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Michael Dayton, Deputy Director Governor's Office of Homeland Security

### **Public Comment**

Curt Monroe, Manager San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Wireless Services Division/Regional Communication System

### <u>Adjournment</u>

### Legislative Representatives in the Audience

Mr. James Jack, Chief of Staff Senator Bruce McPherson

Mr. James Peterson, Representative Senator Dianne Feinstein United States Senate

Mr. Paul VanDyke, Chief of Staff Senator Nell Soto

### **FINDINGS**

In October of 2003, Southern California experienced some of the worst fires in California history.

Immediately following those fires, on November 2, 2003, Governor Gray Davis and Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger created the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission (BRFC). The BRFC held meetings during the following six months in every county affected by the fires. On April 5, 2004, the BRFC released its final report. That report included 33 findings and 48 recommendations in five categories:

- Jurisdictional and Operational Barriers
- Training
- Interstate/Regional Mutual Aid System
- Local Building, Planning and Land Use Regulations; Brush Clearance and Fuel Modification
- Communications Interoperability, Information Technology, and Public Outreach.

The creation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security is one of the 48 recommendations made by the BRFC.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) issued these statistics on the 2003 Southern California fires:

- The fires occurred in six counties -- Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, San Diego, Riverside, and Orange
- 246 people injured
- 24 lives lost, including one firefighter
- 739,597 total acres burned
- 3,631 homes destroyed
- 36 commercial properties destroyed
- 1,169 outbuildings destroyed
- \$40 million in agricultural losses
- 15,631 personnel were assigned to fight the fires.

More than \$317 million in federal and state emergency management funds were provided for the 2003 Southern California Wildfires:

- \$32.9 million for temporary housing, minor home repairs, personal property loss, and other personal needs
- \$170 million in low-interest SBA loans for individuals and businesses
- \$1.4 million in state individual supplemental assistance provided through the Department of Social Services
- \$9.5 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds reprogrammed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for tree removal

• \$103.2 million in Public Assistance funding for public infrastructure repair, emergency response costs, and debris removal.

Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger charged the BRFC to examine the following:

- Reducing and eliminating jurisdictional and operational barriers that prevent the expeditious response of federal, state and local agencies to combat wildfires
- Providing continuous readiness training of personnel and military equipment approved for use within the California incident command system
- Developing and/or revising an interstate and/or regional master mutual aid system similar to California's
- Updating local building and planning regulations to include more stringent construction standards for high fire threat zones, requirements for brush clearance and fuel modification, and land use planning techniques that protect property.

The BRFC reported that significant barriers and impediments to reducing the threat of wildland fires and preventing periodic, catastrophic loss of life and property from disasters were highlighted during the 2003 fires. These included:

- Conflicting public policy mandates
- Lengthy bureaucratic administrative processes and procedures
- Antagonistic litigation tactics.

In 2003, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Jerry Lewis secured \$150 million to create a comprehensive tree removal program for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

San Diego County received a \$40 million federal grant in May 2004 for removal of dead, dying and diseased trees. The Board of Supervisors added an additional \$5 million in County funds. The County estimates that up to 300,000 trees will be removed on both public and private lands, with permission of the landowners. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that 62,000 acres of trees killed by drought and insect infestations are in the areas targeted by the County.

The 2004 Federal Omnibus Appropriations bill waived the local match requirement for the \$150 million that was appropriated to Southern California to remove dead and dying trees under the EWP. California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have both urged the Bush Administration to continue that local match waiver beyond the summer fire season.

Feinstein and Lewis also secured an additional \$50 million for the U.S. Forest Service tree removal programs on federal land and on private property when authorized by landowners.

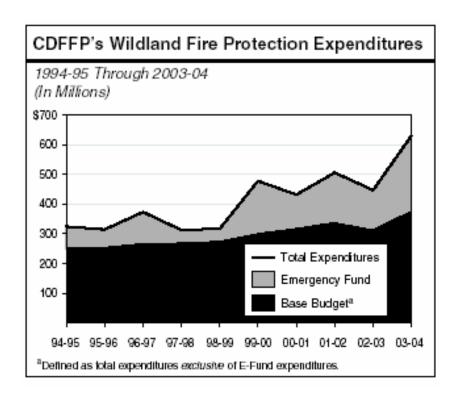
On July 22, 2004, Senator Feinstein announced an additional \$500 million in emergency federal funding was provided to assist federal firefighters in responding to this summer's severe fire threat in National Forests located in California. "This \$500 million will provide firefighters with the tools they need to effectively combat wildfires," Senator Feinstein said.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through OES from the Fire Management Assistance Grant (F-MAG) for firefighting costs stemming from the Williams Fire, which ravaged a large portion of the Angeles National Forest in September 2002.

Federal, state and local fire officials have been removing dead and dying trees over the last several months. Evacuation routes, communication centers and mountain communities have been their primary focus. This year alone, the U.S. Forest Service removed 165,000 trees with a diameter greater than 2 feet, 504,000 smaller trees, and thousands of tons of chaparral.

The BRFC recommended increased use of military pilots. Consequently, nine months of training was provided to military pilots. They learned how to coordinate communication and firefighting tactics with CDF pilots for use in civilian fire zones. Cooperating agencies included CDF, U.S. Forest Service, Camp Pendleton Fire Department, U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps. An H-3 helicopter and its crew from Naval Reserve Squadron HC-85, based at NAS North Island in Coronado, are the first to be trained and certified by CDF to participate in aerial firefighting specifically in a civilian fire zone.

The BRFC also recommended increased air support to fight wildland fires. The San Diego region has increased its firefighting air resources. San Diego County currently has one firefighting helicopter on duty, and a second medium-lift helicopter on order. The City of San Diego has one firefighting helicopter stationed at Montgomery Field. All three helicopters will operate year-round.



Wildland Fire Trends (from staff discussions with the Legislative Analyst Office):

- Over a nine-year period, there has been a steady rise in the state's overall firefighting costs. CDF's planned overtime rate is expected to triple in FY 05/06 from FY 03/04 mainly due to increases in labor costs and a shift to a 12-month fire season after FY 05/06.
- Senior firefighting positions are getting harder to fill, in part due to salary compaction. With the amount of overtime worked during a fire, a rank and file Firefighter can earn wages that are comparable to senior management positions without the responsibilities of management.
- CDF, like state service in general, is expected to have large numbers of the most experienced senior staff retire in the next few years as the post-World War II "baby-boomers" reach retirement age.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of homes built in wildland fire areas, driving up the cost of fire protection.
- State firefighting resources are used for structure protection in most wildland fires, regardless of the area of responsibility. In the late 1990's, the U.S. Forest Service decided not to provide structure protection--the most costly type of fire protection--to privately owned buildings during wildland fires. The state, by default, has become the last resort for structure protection because

small local fire companies are often overwhelmed in wildland fires. When CDF dispatches a resource in accord with its many agreements, that resource becomes a state cost.

- Mr. Curt Monroe presented the Joint Committee with a report to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on the Regional Communications System (RCS). The report highlights \$18 million for system enhancements that are currently underway and will be completed within 24 months.
- Chief Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire Department, submitted a written report that is on file with the Joint Committee detailing the background, conditions, findings, and recommendations related to the Piru, Verdale, and Simi Fires in 2003. The Ventura County report notes that after considering all the issues, it appears that there are many pre-existing conditions (narrow roads, types of housing construction, etc.) that may never be politically addressed on a scale large enough to make a significant difference. New developments will be regulated enough to provide fire safe communities. Therefore, only three distinct areas can bring timely pre-fire mitigation tactics to the wildland urban interface issues we encounter today:
  - Remove the barriers and become aggressive in conducting fuel management programs ranging from clearing of diseased vegetation to conducting prescribed fires.
  - 2. Establish a 100-foot baseline defensible space program that has the ability to consider additional space requirements depending upon fuels and slope.
  - 3. Engage the public in active wildland fire safety and outreach programs.

These three pre-fire steps will provide the best use of tax dollars in combating the challenges of wildland urban interface fires. These steps are not the final solution, but rather an effective approach to reality-based actions.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Senator William Campbell made two recommendations during his testimony as follows.

- 1. The Joint Committee should establish a task force to "review the conflict between sound proven vegetation management plans and land use policies motivated by environmental protection."
- 2. To create a state fire standards and training commission that would significantly raise the availability, skill level, consistency and scope of training for our 65,000 firefighters. A \$5 fee on each fire insurance policy in the state could fund this commission.

The firefighter representatives recommended that the committee use the attached matrix to track the progress of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission's recommendations. The members of the committee agreed to adopt the use of the matrix to track the action on the Commission recommendations.

OES reported on its efforts to improve the management of and response to fire disasters, in conjunction with federal, state and local partners. OES has made significant progress in pursuing newer firefighting technologies for fire engines, promoting statewide Fire Safe Councils, providing training and improved communications, and improving the use of military assets. Long term recommendations include developing funding resources.

OHS reported that a strengthened fire and rescue system means a better response to both natural and man-made disasters and the importance of communications interoperability, public education and new technologies. The state's homeland security funding plan requires that at least 20% of the funds distributed within an operational area be allocated to fire services, law enforcement and public health.

Mr. Curt Monroe recommended that the best way to achieve interoperability between public safety agencies throughout California is for the State to provide funding that is conditioned on using common statewide standards for radio equipment. Effective legislation that includes conditional funding could accomplish this goal in the same manner as it helped to resolve the adoption of the 9-1-1 emergency number concept in 1972 and the continued support of the 9-1-1 dispatch centers in the intervening 32 years.

The Honorable Jim Venable, Supervisor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District in Riverside County, was unable to attend the hearing but submitted written testimony. In his comments, Supervisor Venable made short and long-term recommendations. Short-Term:

- Continue ways to bring all stakeholders to the table to get buy-in for proactive rather that reactive planning
- Make land use issues including the use of fire retardant building materials, and code enforcement a priority
- Develop a reverse 911 system
- Urge OES and FEMA to consider Riverside County's Hazard Mitigation Grant request
- Additional table-top and full-scale exercises for training emergency responders
- Continue our public education thrust

### Long-Term:

- Work on overall forest health
- Lobby our federal elected officials to support continued financial support for removing dead trees and reforestation

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

The Chair and members of the Joint Legislative Committee approved the following action items.

- 1. Joint Legislative Committee staff will track the 48 recommendations made by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission using the attached matrix as presented during the hearing as the starting point.
- 2. The Joint Legislative Committee will appoint a Wildland Fire Technical Committee to provide technical support for the Committee.
- The Chair will prepare a letter on behalf of the Committee to be sent to the Governor requesting a meeting with statewide fire chiefs to discuss implementation strategies for the 48 recommendations made by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission.
- 4. The Chair will lead a tour of the San Diego backcountry in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to inspect fire safety provisions in place for this fire season.
- 5. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will investigate conducting outreach efforts for heavy equipment operators who want to volunteer their services to CDF during wildland fires. CDF will report back its findings to the Joint Legislative Committee.

# GOVERNOR'S BLUE RIBBON FIRE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND STATUS MATRIX PRESENTED BY THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 5, 2004

Red background - Negative direction; No background color - No action; Bold Red Number - Firefighter's Core Emphasis (Recommendation Color code: Yellow background - Positive progress; Green background - Satisfactorily Completed;

	RECOMMENDATION	Responsible Party	Status Date	STATUS
	JURISDICTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL BARRIERS			
	MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS			
<del>-</del>	The Commission recommends that OES arrange a meeting of federal, state and local partners to further clarify and improve the process of utilizing	OES/CDF	9/10/04	CDF and the U.S. Forest Service have worked together to compensate for the grounding of U.S. Forest Service contracted air tankers. (5)
	federal resources and access to military assets.	USFS	9/30/04	The U.S. Forest Service authorized nine contracted air tankers to return to service; there are eight military C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS available for use; and contracts are established with private companies for helicopters and helitankers capable of fire
2.	The Commission recommends that federal (USDOI, USFS), state (CDF, OES) and local fire	OES/CDF		OES has been involved in discussions with CDF, the California National Guard (CNG), the U.S.

	RECOMMENDATION	Responsible Party	Status Date	STATUS
	agencies work in conjunction with the military to jointly develop and adopt agreements, regulations and operating policies for the employment of aerial assets during WUI firefighting efforts. In addition, FIRESCOPE should develop a statewide plan to increase local agency capacity to provide additional air resources for combating WUI fires.  This includes:  Agreements to meet equipment, communications and training criteria as established by USDOI, USFS, CDF AND OES;  Submission of annual declarations of participation to USDOI, USFS, CDF AND OES;  OES by military base commanders by May1 <sup>st</sup> of each calendar year; and  Weekly affirmation of availability status in accordance with developed policy.			Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Defense on the process for the use of federal resources and for accessing active duty and reserve military assets. Currently, OES is reviewing existing procedures for use of the CNG Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) and helicopters to ensure that all avenues of access are identified and the numerous ways of accessing federal assets are also identified, clarified, and documenting the thresholds that trigger the use of federal assets and the scope of use for equipment and personnel. CDF developed an ongoing training plan and has already provided training for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps aircrews in aerial wildland fire fighting. (10)
က်	The Commission recommends that a task force be established to review the social, political, economic and scientific issues relating to conflicts between environmental and ecosystem values and land management planning and their impact on the use of proven fire prevention and	Resources Agency	9/10/04	The California Biodiversity Council, co-chaired by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman and Bureau of Land Management Director Mike Poole, met in Lake Arrowhead in June 2004 and launched a project to help lessen any institutional barriers to the speedy removal of bark beetle-killed trees in

	RECOMMENDATION	Responsible Party	Status Date	STATUS
<b>.</b>	The Commission recommends that federal, state and local fire agencies implement 4-0 staffing for all fire engine companies responding to OES Mutual Aid calls for immediate, planned response, and set a goal of 4-0 staffing for WUI initial attack response.	OES USFS	09/30/04	As has been the case for years, staffing levels on all USFS engines remain at 5-0.

٧.	The Commission recommends that all firefighters responding to WUI fires be provided with the necessary wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment.	OES/CDF FIRESCOPE	9/10/04	OES and CDF, with FIRESCOPE, are creating a survey for local governments to identify the status and the need for wildland personal protective gear, safety and communications equipment. (6)
		USFS/ Cal Chiefs	09/30/04	In August 2004, the USFS awarded a \$988.0 grant to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments with the purchase of safety equipment and to provide wildland urban interface fire training for firefighters in southern California. The effective match to the rural fire departments was 10 percent, as CDF contributed to the overall match.
				A \$246.0 State Fire Assistance grant has been awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association to train 300 rural firefighters in wildland urban interface fire protection techniques. At the conclusion of the training, each firefighter, successfully completing the training, will receive a set of wildland firefighting protective equipment,

a headlamp and a field pack. The grant was matched for a total project cost of \$492.0.	The grant was st of \$492.0.
A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for \$261.5 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in Ione, CA.	was awarded to ining upgrades at e, CA.
Volunteer Fire Assistance grants have been awarded to CDF in the amount of \$949.0 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment, and supplies to assist with fire protection. A 50/50 match was required.	nts have been nt of \$949.0 for ments statewide for lies to assist with n was required.
A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to California Fire Chiefs Association for \$1 million to assist rural fire departments with the purchase of needed fire equipment and supplies and to	was awarded to tion for \$1 million to vith the purchase of upplies and to
provide fire training in the drought/bug kill affected areas of southern California. California Fire Chiefs will issue sub-grants to selected departments who will match 25 percent of the total cost of the proposed project.	ugnt/bug kill lifornia. California tts to selected 5 percent of the ect.

ω	8. The Commission recommends that sufficient funds be allocated to state and local fire agencies to address California's fire prevention and suppression needs.	Governor	
о́	The Commission recommends that federal, state and local policymakers consider creating a stable funding infrastructure for the California Fire Alliance and Fire Safe Councils.	OES/CDF	As they become available, CDF and OES are providing more resources to create new Fire Safe Councils and to enhance the ability of existing councils to develop and implement mitigation plans. As part of this action, in the 2004-05 fiscal

		California Fire Alliance State Fire Safe Councils		year:  • CDF has directed \$100,000 to assist in development of an integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin;  • CDF will allocate \$250,000 for new Community Wildfire Protection Plans that incorporate a watershed protection/fuel treatment project element or for modifications to existing fire plans to develop watershed protection/fuel treatment elements; and  • CDF will deliver \$1.2 million to local Fire Safe Councils for use on community fuel reduction projects in the Sierra Nevada. (11)
				The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear. (17)
	FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS			
10.	The Commission recommends that the federal government (DOD, USDOI, USFS, etc.) investigate whether the successful MAFFS program concept of operation and other	OES/CDF	9/10/04	CDF and OES are promoting the use of the MAFFS program as a model for other air assets. OES and CDF will continue ongoing efforts to assess emergency technologies that may be

applied to other aerial firefighting systems. (20)  O9/30/04  Currently, the USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is researching Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology for remote sensing intelligence gathering, communication relay, and weather observations in class sizes ranging from hand-launched to space-borne models. Additionally, work is being conducted with various contractors and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory relative to the system requirements, followed by proof-of-concept demos for small UAVs (10-15 feet in wing span). Together, we are working in concert with government agencies (DOD, FAA, and NASA) in an effort to identify technology and policy issues that would impede the introduction of UAVs. The USFS is also working with the United States Air Force and Georgia Tech University on flight planning software.	The Forest Service has implemented a new program called, "Firewatch," with the goal of meeting the Commission's recommendation for a single-source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence. This program utilizes a Bell 209 helicopter, equipped with specialized equipment for intelligence gathering and mapping for command and control. The aircraft is equipped with a multi-channel microwave transmitter, capable of down linking real-time, color or infrared camera images to a portable microwave receiver. The Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system on the ship is
USFS	USFS
emerging technologies can be applied to aerial firefighting systems.	The Commission recommends that Congress support and fund a single source database that enhances real-time and nighttime WUI intelligence.

				equipped with an infrared camera, a 3 CCD color camera, laser range finder, and spotter scope.  The FLIR turret is integrated to work with computerized mapping programs. Presently, the program has requested Night Vision Goggles to expand this technology into a nighttime operation.
12.	The Commission recommends that Congress consider authorizing additional federal grant funds for wildland fire mitigation including the establishment of a National Fire Science Research Institute to compile, evaluate and fund technological advances related to fire prevention and suppression at the federal level.	Legislative Oversight Committee USFS	09/30/04	Over the past year, USFS provided \$2.6 million in federal funds (75/25 match) to CDF to reduce hazardous fuels in southern California.
				In addition, the following grants were awarded for hazardous fuels reduction programs directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:  • \$11.8 million to San Bernardino County  • \$5.0 million to Riverside County
				In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked \$2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be used for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.
13.	The Commission recommends that the federal government reduce or eliminate "match" requirements for federal grant funds for hazard mitigation programs in areas where there has	USFS	09/30/04	State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced from 50/50, dollar-for-dollar, match to 75 percent federal government and 25 percent partner for grants delivered to southern

California's drought affected WUI areas. This reduced match is effective for one year.		Completed. ACR 240 (Kehoe) Approved by the Legislature		OES will continue efforts to ensure that its mutual aid deployed equipment has the capability to utilize newer technologies such as foams and gels. OES has already equipped 50 of the 110 fire engines and 12 water tenders in its local government fleet with this capability.
				9/10/04
		State Legislature	Governor	OES
been a state declaration of emergency.	STATE RECOMMENDATIONS	The Commission recommends development of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security. As part of the Committee's mandate, it will have responsibility, in so far as possible, to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Committee will oversee all relevant rules and regulations to resolve conflicting issues. Additionally, this Committee will have technical advisory committees to help evaluate strategies, and periodically report its progress to the Governor and Legislature.	The Commission recommends that it reconvene 6 months after the submission of this report, and again 6 months later, to assess progress in implementing the Commission's recommendations.	The Commission recommends that mutual aid deployed engines have the capability to utilize newer technologies, such as foams and gels.
		14.	15.	16.

				Modifications to the remaining 72 engines and tenders will be completed over the next several months. OES is also sharing best practices on
				this technology with local governments.  Financial constraints have made it improbable for the state to fund this effort on the local level. (12)
17.	The Commission recommends establishing a	Governor		SB 1611 VETOED
	secure year-round operational capability for CDF,	CDF	9/10/04	5 yeM ac bolissi sew 80 0 S abaO oxitiooxa
	of 4-0 staffing for all CDF state funded engine			2004 to increase the assistance provided by the
	companies.			state for fire response in Southern California during the 2004 Fire Season. The Governor's
				order assigns four firefighters to CDF engines in
				Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties: Provides additional resources in Los
				Angeles and Orange Counties based on fire
				threat conditions; Redeploys 10 refurbished fire
				engines to increase engine resources in san Bernardino Riverside and San Diego Counties:
				Adds four CDF Conservation Camp fire crews in
				Southern California; and provides for an
				additional helicopter based in San Diego County. (1)
				Through the budget process, CDF will work
				toward a year-round operational capability in Riverside San Bernarding and San Diego
				Counties for wildland fire fighting. The continued
				increases in population in the WUI make it
				increasingly difficult to fight fires, especially in
				Southern California. During the past three years,
				funding for an extended fire season in this area
				has been authorized by gubernatorial executive

				order. Providing this coverage has likely saved millions of dollars in extra fire suppression costs to battle what likely would be much larger fires under normal funding and staffing situations. Fires are kept smaller and less destructive, which means significant cost savings to the state for fighting the fires and to residents for loss of life and property. (1a)
				CDF will develop a proposal to provide for the appropriate expanded staffing for all CDF fire engines statewide. Current budget allocations allow CDF to staff each fire engine with a crew of three (3.0 staffing). As a general rule, fire engines are staffed for eight months out of the year on the theory that the risk of fire starts in the winter months is very low. However, investing in additional staff and providing coverage over a longer period of time, facilitated by several executive orders, has proven its effectiveness in keeping fires smaller by allowing CDF fire engine companies to be more productive and efficient in pre-fire protection activities. The additional staffing also enhances fire fighter safety during emergency response operations. (5a)
18.	The Commission recommends that the state examine alternatives for replacement and diversification of CDF's aging helicopter fleet and fire engine apparatus, and begin a replacement planning cycle.	Governor	9/10/04	AB 1588 VETOED  CDF, working through the California Fire Alliance (an advisory group including all levels of government) and the California Wildfire Working Group, is updating agreements for the employment of aerial assets used in the WUI. FIRESCOPE (Fire Fighting Resources of

			California Organized for Potential Emergencies) is working with local governments to develop a statewide strategy to increase local air resources capability. (18)
			Through the budget process, CDF will work toward replacing its obsolete fire engines over a five-year period. CDF operates a total of 390 fire engines from 231 fire stations throughout the state. The current CDF fire engine fleet replacement budget has not significantly changed since 1982-83 due to limited General Fund resources and budget reductions and has therefore caused CDF to fall behind in its equipment replacement schedule. (2a)
			CDF operates 11 1960 vintage Bell UH-1 Hueys which have been converted for aerial fire fighting work by the state and are designated CDF "Super Huey" helicopters. Acquired as excess military aircraft, they were later specially modified to meet CDF's mission and have served the department well. However, because of their age and the lack of spare parts, airframes and support mechanisms within the federal and civilian markets have become scarce. Thus, they are nearing the end of their useful service life. (3a)
19.	nission recommends that the s	Governor	SB 902 VETOED
	develop a program to fund the acquisition of 150 additional OES fire engines and the requisite logistical support necessary to address California's fire suppression needs,	OES	OES is developing recommendations on the need for additional fire engines to be used in California's WUI fire suppression efforts. (21)

	TRAINING MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS			
20.	The Commission recommends that nationwide training agreements be expanded.	OES/CDF	9/10/04	CDF has developed effective model training agreements and is working to expand the use of those agreements with federal agencies. (22)
				OES and CDF, with FIRESCOPE, are preparing a training needs assessment coordinated through the State Board of Fire Services and will explore funding sources for state and local fire fighter training. (23)
				CDF is preparing a needs assessment for training exercises with the California National Guard and military resources. (24)
	FEDERAL RECOMMENDATION			
21.		Cal Chiefs CPF		Cal Chiefs developing a survey to assess the training facility and existing wildland training capabilities in the southern California counties.
	program.	USFS	9/30/04	USFS awarded a grant in the amount of \$988.0 to CDF to assist approximately 20 rural fire departments in the purchase of safety equipment and to provide training in southern California.
				Three hundred (300) rural firefighters will be trained in wildland urban interface fire protection

				techniques courtesy of a \$246.0 federal grant awarded to the California Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, each firefighter who successfully completes this training course will receive a set of wildland firefighting personal protective equipment, as well as a headlamp and field pack. A State Fire Assistance grant was awarded to CDF for \$261.5 to provide training upgrades at the CDF Fire Academy in lone. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants were awarded to CDF in the
	STATE RECOMMENDATIONS			amount of \$949.0 for distribution to rural fire departments statewide for training, equipment and supplies to assist in fire protection.
22.	The Commission recommends that the state	Governor	9/10/04	Governor Schwarzenegger sent a letter to the
	create a muti-layered public education outreach campaign for residents living in WUI areas.	Legislative Oversight Committee		Chairmen of the Boards of Supervisors for Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties calling upon them to work with him to encourage residents of their counties to be
		Cal Chiefs		fire safe and to engage in tasks to protect their homes. (2)
		Fire Safe Councils		
23.	The Commission recommends that CDF/OSFM develop and maintain an adequately funded P.O.S.T. type standards, training and education program to ensure that trained and qualified personnel are prepared to respond to major	Legislative Oversight Committee		

			9/10/04 CDF and OES are developing a statewide agreement covering the use of local governments by federal and state agencies to request, utilize, and reimburse local governments in a manner that does not conflict with California's master mutual aid system. (25)	9/10/04 CDF and OES are working with FIRESCOPE to reach consensus on defining responsibility for structure protection and perimeter control. They are also working to clarify the release of mutual aid resources back to their original inrisdictions.
	Legislative Oversight Committee		OES/CDF	OES/CDF Working Committee to FIRESCOPE
events. This system should support the use of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) and incorporate the Fire Officer Certification process approved by the State Board of Fire Services.	The Commission recommends that additional state money be provided to each Operational Area to hold annual wildland fire suppression training exercises that includes National Guard and federal military resources. Funding should also be made available by the state to improve the training level of smaller fire departments.	INTERSTATE/REGIONAL MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local fire agencies in California review their various assistance for hire agreements for appropriateness and their potential to undermine California's Master Agreement and Master Mutual Aid System.	The Commission recommends that FIRESCOPE facilitate federal, state and local fire service agencies working together to reach consensus on the definition of structure protection versus perimeter control and address the release of
	24.		25.	26.

28.	The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies continuously maintain and update their mutual aid and cooperative agreements to reflect contemporary needs and costs.	OES/CDF	9/10/04	CDF and OES will continue to update mutual aid and cooperative agreements with federal and local governments and assess associated needs and costs. (27)
	STATE RECOMMENDATION			
29.	The Commission recommends that OES and FIRESCOPE incorporate the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) into the statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement.	OES	9/10/04	OES is evaluating the Emergency Medical Services Authority's role in mutual aid including identifying obstacles and impacts to private ambulance companies. (28)
	LOCAL BUILDING, PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS; BRUSH CLEARANCE AND FUEL MODIFICATION  MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL  RECOMMENDATIONS			
30.	The Commission recommends that the Joint Legislative Committee on Disaster Response and Homeland Security convene with appropriate representatives of federal, state and local governments to build upon existing governmental efforts to develop a comprehensive interagency, intergovernmental wildland vegetation management plan for California, and integrate the plan's direction into revised or amended federal, state and local land management, land use plans.	CDF	9/10/04	Utilizing federal, state and local resources, more than 86,000 dead and dying trees have been removed from over 663,000 acres in the Southern California areas most heavily impacted by the drought and the bark beetle infestation. Forest areas at risk to impacts from insects, disease and other factors have been mapped and evaluated. Evacuation routes and centers, and critical infrastructure have been treated to maximize public safety. CDF has provided education and enforcement of the California

Management Plan (VMP) to include the treatment programs that provide for the treatment of fuels to contractors and licensed timber operators from all buildups before a fire starts, the danger of major build up in the Sierra Nevada range over the next and the Sierra Nevada foothills. CDF has several Working with the Department of Corrections and full strength. Conservation crews at CDF camps Proposition 40 funding to reduce hazardous fuel maintaining its fire conservation crews at nearly over the United States who have worked in the particularly concentrated in Southern California of all fuels on non-federally owned land and for The Legislature approved the Administration's consulting with private, local, state and federal interests. Watershed values, life and property proposal to provide CDF with \$39 million from provide a cost effective means to mitigate the reduce fire hazard. Each of these programs Forest Practice Rules, targeting tree service the California Conservation Corps, CDF is effects of wildland fires through vegetation management and initial attack. Without a vigorous program to reduce decadent fuel intermingled throughout the state, but are all treatment types. In doing this, CDF is fire activity is dramatically increased. (9) CDF is updating its current Vegetation values, and high fire hazard areas are area during the past 10 months. (4) five years. (8) ammability potential and locations of higher scelerate fuel hazard abatement treatmen nd natural resources, including air and wa stewardship contracting, and tax Development of programs to upgrade the nd risks to people, capital improvements ssessment that evaluates long term cos afety of nonconforming structures in WI A scientifically credible balance of harms uality and listed or endangered species , wildland fuel hazard rating, indicating nconventional markets as a means to wildfire risks, relative to social, commu oward achieving a safer mix of age-cl A prioritized treatment schedule aimed istribution in chaparral fuel types and Economic incentives to establish new A wildland fuel treatment objective air oward achieving wildland fuel treatm centives for alternative fuels (e.g. bjectives in a specified timeframe; iomass for electric cogeneration; ne central elements of the comprel should include, but not be limited to: and ecological values: Consideration ondition-cla ypes;

operates under the CEQA process to obtain authority to be implemented within the VMP. CDF is looking to update the VMP's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report to expand CDF's ability to treat fuels on a broad variety of landscapes and ownerships with differing treatments. Lessons learned from this effort can be used in other state, local and federal programs as time and resources permit. (13)	CDF is providing \$100,000 in the 2004-05 fiscal year to the California Biomass Collaborative to develop proposals, including legislation, to improve the ability to dispose of biomass related to fuel reduction. (16)	CDF will continue to provide staff and technical assistance to WUI communities to prepare new community wildfire protection plans. (30)	Working with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CDF will accelerate and enhance the California Fire Plan as a tool for statewide analysis of wildland fire safety and level-of-service needs. The goal of the California Fire Plan is to reduce the total costs and losses from wildland fire by protecting assets at risk through prefire management and increased initial attack success. At its core, the solution is to integrate competing objectives, streamline environmental review and increase the scale and scope of implementation. (6a)	09/30/04 USFS took the lead in developing and
				USFS

				implementing a Fireshed Assessment Process. This is an analysis tool, for developing projects that will change fire behavior over a large scale landscape. Training is currently being conducted for the Forests in California
				An agreement has been written which would allow for cooperative prescribed burning projects between the federal land management agencies and CDF. This agreement is awaiting approvals.
				Community Protection Grants in the amount of \$2.0 million were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004 for fuels work completed on private lands adjacent to National Forest Systems Lands.
				In Fiscal Year 2004, our goal was to complete 50 percent of our hazardous fuels work in WUI areas. This goal was exceeded by 14.4 percent.
				Over 90,000 acres were treated as hazardous fuels. These projects focused on changing condition classes. 58,000 acres were in WUI. (64.4 percent)
				More than 62,000 acres of other treatments contributed toward a change in condition class. 28,000 acres were in WUI. (45.2 percent)
31.	The Commission recommends that in WUI areas, the Statewide Fire Safe Council promotes the establishment of local Fire Safe Councils and encourages federal, state and local governments to assist in this effort.	Calif. Fire Alliance	9/10/04	The Administration will work with Congress and the President to Insure full funding of Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA); secure fair and equitable distribution of HFRA Title I monies to California; secure continued funding

				under the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Grant program to support operations of Fire Safe Councils; reduce the "match" requirements for federal hazard mitigation programs; and secure continued funding for training, fire equipment, apparatus, and safety gear. (17)
32.	The Commission recommends that all federal, state and local agencies and officials give serious consideration to fostering and advancing citizen involvement in the establishment and operation of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding groups. Furthermore, the state should develop a disaster recovery model based on the collective input of OES, FEMA, faith-based and community groups, victim advocates and other relevant organizations.	GOSERVE	9/10/04	GOSERV  OES is working with CDF, FEMA, and the California Fire Alliance to educate local governments on the value of implementing volunteer programs in support of disaster prevention, recovery and rebuilding. OES will work with victim advocates and other relevant organizations to address issues facing victims and will explore the development of a disaster recovery model. (29)
33.	The Commission recommends that USDOI, FEMA, USFS, CDF and OES identify ways to assist, including financially, local governments with preparation and mitigation efforts.	Calif. Fire Alliance USFS	09/30/04	State Fire Alliance matching requirements were reduced from a 50/50 match, dollar-for-dollar, to 75 percent for the federal government and 25 percent for our partners for funds delivered to southern California's drought affected WUI areas. USFS provided \$2.6 million in federal funds in southern California.

y, at CDF's ifornia	ino County Inty iunty	narked \$2.4 Private grant ouncil. This uel reduction ommunities		S will and scies on issues Fire Plan, ction and the	appropriate stencies arpretation sy and
In addition, the following funds were provided for hazardous fuels reduction programs, at CDF's request, directly to the southern California Counties by the USFS:	\$11.8 million to San Bernardino County \$5.0 million to Riverside County \$7.8 million to San Diego County	In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress earmarked \$2.4 million in Forest Service State and Private grant funding to the California Fire Safe Council. This grant funding was to be utilized for fuel reduction projects in the Southern California communities affected by the 2003 wildfires.		Through FIRESCOPE, CDF and OES will continue working toward consensus and agreement among federal fire agencies on issues and inconsistencies in the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, structure protection and the cost apportionment process. (31)	The USFS agrees the WFLC is an appropriate forum to review and resolve inconsistencies between federal agencies in the interpretation and implementation of national policy and direction.
In additic hazardou request, Counties	• • •	In Fiscal million in funding t grant fun projects i		Through continue agreeme and incol Wildland cost app	The USF forum to between and impledirection.
					09/30/04
				Calif. Fire Alliance	USFS
			FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	The Commission recommends the Wildland Fire Leadership Council address issues of Wildland Fire Prevention and Control and inconsistencies in the interpretation and implementation of the National Fire Plan, Wildland Fire Policy, Structure Protection, and Cost Apportionment process.	
				34.	

		Assessment Team for major wildland fires. The expectation is that this team will prepare a report for each of these events that outline what pre-fire efforts conducted under the California Fire Plan were effective in reducing damage to property and resources, as well as those efforts that were not effective. The scope of these reports would include land use patterns, infrastructure, fuels management, building standards, fire prevention engineering, and suppression tactics and strategy. The reports would be provided to each private, local, state, and federal organization that may be able to contribute to increased pre fire effectiveness. (7a)	MAST priorities were used as a starting point when allocating grant funds to San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Likewise, FAST priorities were used to allocate grant funding in San Diego Counties.
		9/10/04 CDF Ass exp exp for efformary mark mark eng	09/30/04 MA:
Legislative Oversight Committee Insurance Commissioner		State Fire Marshal	USFS
The Commission recommends that Congress consider establishing a National Wildland Fire Insurance Program (NWFIP), with appropriate eligibility criteria, under the direction of FEMA.	STATE RECOMMENDATIONS	The Commission recommends that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continue to conduct fire research, including development of fire test protocols for vents, radiant heat exposure for windows and other applicable areas to improve ignition resistant construction techniques. The research process should include implementation of a comprehensive damage assessment process to collect data on efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation practices.	The Commission recognizes and applauds Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) type programs and recommends that MAST be considered as a model for other areas.
35.		36.	37.

38.	The Commission notes that SB 1855 (Alpert), which is intended to eliminate unintended underinsurance by requiring insurers to provide a cost comparison of available coverage's for a particular home, as well as an explanation of each available coverage, is currently pending before the Legislature and is endorsed by this Commission.	Legislative Oversight Committee Insurance Commissioner		
	COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEROPERABILITY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS			
39.	The Commission recommends that all Incident Command Centers (ICC) dedicate a Public Information Officer (PIO) or establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. The PIO or JIC should be stationed in or near the ICC and have timely access to the latest information. All available technologies should be explored to expedite the timely dissemination of information.	USFS	09/30/04	During Preparedness Levels 3, 4, and 5, both the Southern California Geographical Area Coordination Center in Riverside and Northern Geographical Area Coordination Center at Redding, CA, have a Type 2 Information Officer on-site available to inform and respond to questions from the media, the public and elected officials. Up-to-date technologies such as email and web sites are used to accomplish the timely dissemination of information.
	FEDERAL RECOMMENDATION			
40.	The Commission recommends that sufficient standardized frequencies be issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to meet the interoperable communication needs of	Legislative Oversight Committee		

	fire and emergency personnel.			
	STATE RECOMMENDATIONS			
14	The Commission recommends integration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) with the California Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System.	OES,CDF FIRESCOPE	9/10/04	CDF and OES are developing comprehensive telecommunications and resource management plans that will provide for updated equipment, provide for common cross-jurisdictional use and allow tracking of all fire fighting assets and resources available for mutual aid. These plans will provide for a phasing-in of new systems and will provide for a statewide handheld radio
		USFS	09/30/04	deployment system strategically located for use by local cooperators until a longer term solution can be found to issues related to frequency and interoperability. (4a)
				In May 2005, the Pacific Southwest Region of the USFS will transition from the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS) to the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). It is recommended the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System follow suit and integrate ROSS into their system.
45.	The Commission recommends that the state implement a research and development working group within FIRESCOPE to explore emerging technologies for firefighting purposes (e.g., military technology, GPS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAVs], Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) Satellite	USFS	09/30/04	Following the US Army and NATICK Solider Center's concept of Land Warrior/Objective Warrior, USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center is identifying requirements and conducting a proof-of-concept for the "firefighter of the future." This includes situational awareness, Command and Control, wearable

Communications System).	computers, GPS, wireless data links and night vision.
	USFS has Automated Flight Following, similar in capability to the Military Blue Force Tracking. Automated Flight Following includes the use of a satellite data transfer of GPS position.
	USFS is working on an interface between the fight data recorder for near real time quality assurance/trend monitoring of air tankers and other aircraft.
	The agency has researched and met with military contractors about using the Joint Battlespace Infosphere concept and adopting the concept for wildland fire.
	The USFS is a participating member of the FAA Capstone project, a component of the Future Airspace Management.
	Meetings have been conducted with Marines from the Camp Pendleton Marine Base to review the Turret/camera requirements of attack helicopters.
	Originally funded by Special Forces, the USFS is working with a company to develop a small satellite modem that will send and receive data in remote locations. The information could be GPS, targets, fire locations, or medical emergencies.
	Technology has been developed and distributed

				in the form of a digital camera with GPS that takes a picture of the fire and transmits the information to a web site via satellite. This is accomplished both from an onsite unit or from a hand held PDA.
43.	The Commission recommends that each engine crew and chief officer have the capability to communicate effectively across multiple frequency bands.			
44.	The Commission recommends that local governments improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education.	CDF	9/10/04	CDF is preparing an analysis of the effectiveness of current public education programs for fire prevention. (14)
45.	The Commission recommends that state agencies take advantage of the work that has been done locally to create regional communication systems and join with local agencies on a regional basis to enhance those systems.	OES Legislative Oversight Committee Interoperabilit y Executive Comm.	9/10/04	OES is modernizing its Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS) emergency communication system. OES is replacing the outdated equipment in OASIS with state-of-the art technology to increase statewide communication capability to allow for high-speed wireless data and voice exchange during emergencies. (15)
46.	The Commission recommends that the state update and expand current handheld and mobile radios to be utilized on major mutual aid incidents as a short-term, temporary solution to the interoperability problem.			
47.	The Commission recommends that OES Fire and Rescue Command Nets be expanded.			

	LOCAL RECOMMENDATION			
48.	The Commission recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities.	OES, Law	00.50000 \$ .5 .5	OES provided four training courses on crisis communication in 2004 to state and local public information officers; more courses are planned. OES is continuing its work with local governments to emphasize the importance of evacuation pre-planning and early warning systems. In addition, OES and CDF are working with local and federal counterparts to improve integration of public information functions at incidents. (7)

## Prepared Opening Statement Before the California Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security

### Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Chair Senator Bruce McPherson, Vice-Chair

### CA State Senator William Campbell (Ret.) Chairman, CA Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission

#### October 5, 2004

Madam Chair, Vice-Chairman McPherson, distinguished committee members, I am honored to be invited to offer some opening remarks before your committee. I applaud the State Legislature for acting upon one of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission in establishing this Joint Legislative Committee, and especially for recognizing your leadership and commitment, Chair Kehoe and Vice-chair McPherson, in this important endeavor. In the last century I was Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Fire, Police, Emergency and Disaster Services from 1981 to 1990 and found it to be a challenging but extremely rewarding experience. I pledge my support to you and this committee as you go forward to strengthen and enhance our emergency services and homeland security.

As most of you may know I was asked by former Governor Gray Davis and then Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger to be the chairman of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Commission was formed November 2, 2003, in the wake of California's unprecedented series of wildland and urban interface fires that ravaged Southern California.

In October of 2003, Southern California experienced the most devastating wildland fire disaster in the state's history. Over 739,000 acres burned; 3,631 homes, 36 commercial properties and 1,169 outbuildings were destroyed; 246 injuries; 24 fatalities, including one firefighter. At the height of the siege, 15,631 personnel were assigned to the fires. Presidential declarations of disaster were declared in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties. In the aftermath of the fires in San Bernardino County, a barren mountain canyon landscape, impacted by a rainstorm, produced a flashflood and mudslide causing even more tragedy and destruction. 16 more lives were lost in this follow-on disaster on Christmas day of 2003.

34 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission members comprised of federal, state and local officials assembled to examine the wildland fire disaster response and the critical public policy issues that impede or strengthen our firefighting efforts. I am

gratified and encouraged to see that several of the legislative members that were on the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission are now members of this joint committee.

As I stated to Governor Schwarzenegger upon completion of our mission, in my more than two decades as a member of the state legislature I have never been more privileged to serve with such a dedicated and committed group of professionals than with my colleagues who served on the Commission. Each member brought an expertise, passion and a search for better methods to prevent future tragedies while resisting opportunities to either advance individual agendas or politicize controversial debates.

The Commission was tasked by the Governor to examine:

- Reducing and eliminating jurisdictional and operational barriers that prevent the expeditious response of military and other resources to combat wildland fire;
- 2. Readiness training of personnel and military resources approved for use within the California incident command system;
- 3. Development of an interstate and/or regional master mutual aid system similar to California's;
- 4. Updating local building and planning regulations to include more stringent construction standards for high fire threat zones, requirements for brush clearance and fuel modification, and land use planning techniques; and,
- 5. Public safety communications interoperability.

We were given 120 days to examine and deliberate on these issues and report back to the Governor with recommendations. We held six hearings in the impacted counties of Southern California: San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura and Orange counties.

On April 14, 2004 as Chairman, I submitted the Commission's final report, including 48 recommendations, to Governor Schwarzenegger. I believe each of you has received copies of this report.

One of the reasons I was most gratified to see the formation of this committee is my hope that you will embrace the most important conclusion reached by the commission and highlighted in our report: The need for public policy change in order to prevent or reduce future disasters of this kind. While additional resources are important, unless the political will is found to make meaningful change in public policy the impact of those resources will be minimal.

Two of those public policy issues are personal priorities of mine and I would like to highlight them today as this committee begins its important work. First is the need to resolve conflicts in both statute and regulation between vegetation management and habitat protection.

Those conflicts are the result of very polarized points of view that are best represented by the dueling bumper stickers I saw the other day. First I saw a

Volvo with a bumper sticker that read, "Earth First". It was followed by an SUV with a bumper sticker that read "Earth First – we'll log the other planets later".

While that great divide may provide an occasional laugh, the consequences for those in the urban wildland interface can be devastating.

Over the course of the seven hearings that the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission conducted, it became abundantly clear that conflicting public policy mandates, lengthy bureaucratic administrative procedures, and antagonistic litigation tactics were the most significant barriers and impediments to reducing the threat of wildland fires and preventing periodic, catastrophic loss of life and property from such disasters. The key to protecting our communities and residents is through fire prevention and effective vegetation and fuels management programs.

I recommend that this committee prioritize the establishment of a task force to review the conflict between sound proven vegetation management plans and land use policies motivated by environmental protection. When wildfires move through the urban wildland interface they not only destroy lives and property but wildlife and precious habitat as well. Those losses will only be minimized by resolving those public policy conflicts. I would encourage the inclusion of local fire-safe councils in that task force, since these dedicated community-based organizations are leading the way to improving California's fire preparedness. Unless a serious outreach is made by this task force to bring both the Volvo driver and the SUV driver to the table, we will not make the critical public policy changes necessary to preserve both human life and property, as well as, wildlife and critical habitat.

The second issue, which is actually my highest personal priority, deals with the issue of training. California needs to create a state fire standards and training commission that would significantly raise the availability, skill level, consistency and scope of training for our 65,000 firefighters. While we currently have many excellent training programs available in the state, our brave firefighters deserve the consistent and high standards that are best provided by a formal training commission, similar to the state's Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) that oversees law enforcement training.

All too often, California firefighters respond, in a well developed system of mutual aid, to jurisdictions that are unfamiliar and to fight fire in conditions and terrain that are alien to their normal firefighting duties. Without the highest level of training to meet those situations our brave men and women are unnecessarily at risk.

As you may know the POST Commission funding is derived from the Peace Officer's Training fund. This fund in turn receives monies from the Penalty Assessment Fund, which comes from criminal and traffic fines. Therefore, the POST program is funded by factors directly related to law enforcement. No tax dollars are used to fund the POST program. Over 600 law enforcement agencies participate and benefit from the POST program.

I believe we can create a Commission on Firefighter Standards and Training similar to POST to ensure that our firefighters are receiving modern training that is standard throughout the state and compatible with national standards. We also need to ensure that there is sufficient funding to support this training system and that the training adequately prepares our firefighters for all types of hazardous environments.

I believe we can fund this commission on firefighter standards and training by imposing a five-dollar fee on each fire insurance policy in the state. Insurance industry executives inform me that there are over 8 million fire insurance policies in California. This perpetual fee will help annually fund the fire training commission. Like POST funds, I believe there is a definite correlation between the imposed fees to help fund the commission with an increased level of training of the agencies and firefighters responsible for the fire protection of the policyholders.

I want to thank this committee for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you this morning and more importantly to commend you for taking on the serious public policy challenges that lie before you. The great mutual aid system that we enjoy in California was largely developed by a committee such as this, that I was privileged to chair. We also helped develop a program that has been singularly successful in advancing new technologies and strategies for firefighting known as Firescope. I am certain that similar improvements that will protect Californians from the devastation of wildland urban interface fires will also emerged from the important work that you begin today.

Thank you very much.

# WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY MICHAEL DAYTON CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY Before the CALIFORNIA JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON

CALIFORNIA JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY October 5, 2004

While the focus of today's hearing is on the fire siege of last October, which were not acts of terrorism, and the subsequent recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, California's Office of Homeland Security has an interest in this issue because a strengthened fire and rescue system means a better response to both natural and man-made disasters.

Additionally, other issues that the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission examined such as the communications interoperability, public education and awareness, and new technology certainly are of interest to OHS. The lessons learned and recommendations to enhance these programs can provide meaningful and productive input to OHS's responsibilities in preventing, preparing, responding and recovering from terrorist events.

Since this is the first hearing of the California Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, it would be helpful to provide this body with some background on the California Office of Homeland Security. OHS was established on February 7, 2003, by Executive Order D-67-03. OHS is responsible for implementing and overseeing management of initiatives that prevent terrorist attacks, reduce the vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and aid the recovery from an attack that may occur.

The Office of Homeland Security serves as the state's primary liaison to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and administers most of the federal homeland security grants intended for local first responders. OHS is committed to working with its local partners to ensure that our state's first responders have the equipment, training and plans necessary to prevent – as well as respond to – any act of terrorism. Since its inception, OHS has made timely distributions of more than \$533 million in federal homeland security grants to state and local emergency first responders.

Currently, there are two primary homeland security grant programs being administered by OHS benefiting local first responders: the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative Program.

State Homeland Security Grant Program

In federal fiscal year 2004, California received a total of \$133.9 million under the State Homeland Security Grant Program. In 2002, a group with representatives from each of the statewide first responder associations developed a funding plan. Following this plan, 80 percent of the program's funding (\$103 million) was

awarded to each of the state's 58 operational areas for the benefit of all first responders in the county.

In order to decide which jurisdiction (county, city or special district) and discipline (law, fire, health, etc.) is to receive funding within each operational area, an approval authority body must be established. This five member body must be composed of the county sheriff, county fire chief, county health officer, as well as a municipal fire chief and municipal police chief to be chosen by the countywide municipal fire and police chiefs associations. The state's funding plan has a requirement to ensure fire safety, law enforcement and public health disciplines receive a fair share of the funds. The funding plan requires that at least 20% of the funds distributed within an operational area be allocated to fire services, law enforcement and public health. The remainder may be allocated at the discretion of the five member approval authority body.

The amount of money awarded to each county operational area is calculated on a small base-plus-population formula. Grant funds may be used for specified equipment (i.e. personal protective gear), explosive mitigation devices, detection equipment), as well as for training, exercises and planning activities. Unfortunately, with the exception of personnel used for planning and administrative activities, the grant does not cover the cost of operational personnel. Additionally, federal guidelines prevent this grant from being used to acquire fire engines or squad cars.

#### Urban Area Security Initiative Program

In contrast to the above program, which distributes funds to first responders statewide, the Urban Area Security Initiative program targets funding for those first responders located in high-threat urban areas. The federal Department of Homeland Security predetermines the selected cities, and also sets the amount of funds for each city.

In federal fiscal year 2004, 10 California urban areas were awarded funds under this program. The 10 urban area cities and the amount of funding per city are:

Urban Area	Allocation
Los Angeles	\$28,101,720
San Francisco	\$26,325,036
Santa Ana	\$14,969,683
Long Beach	\$12,064,488
San Diego	\$10,418,166
Anaheim	\$10,284,651
San Jose	\$9,923,545
Sacramento	\$7,977,579

Oakland \$7,808,348

Fresno \$7,034,646

Under the Urban Area Security Initiative program, each of the cities selected for funding must work with their core county counterpart and define their "urban area" by including, where appropriate, neighboring counties. Once the urban area has been defined, an urban area working group is then formed to assess the needs of urban area and provide recommendations to the core city/core county on how the funding should be distributed, by jurisdiction and discipline.

Like the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Urban Area Security initiative grant does allow states to retain 20 percent of the funding for state first responders in the urban area. However, in both the fiscal year 2003 supplemental and the fiscal year 2004 programs, the state Office of Homeland Security has opted to instead award 100 percent of the funds to the urban areas. This decision was made in an effort to ensure that regional cooperation would continue within the operational area.

Local units of government receiving funds under the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program may use the awards to procure specified equipment, exercise and train local first responders and engage in planning activities. Unfortunately, with respect to operational personnel and general purpose vehicles being eligible costs, recipients of this grant face the same limitations imposed by the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

The California Office of Homeland Security remains committed to working with all units of government to better prepare our communities. OHS looks forward to a productive working relationship with this committee and through our combined efforts, local first responders will be in the best position to prevent and respond to any acts of terrorism.

#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY

#### DALLAS JONES, TREASURER

#### CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

#### JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY SERVICES AND

#### HOMELAND SECURITY

#### **OCTOBER 5, 2004**

- I'm Dallas Jones, former Director of the California Office of Emergency Services. I'm here representing Lou Paulson, the president of California Professional Firefighters, who was unable to make it today because of a death in his family.
- I'm also here to demonstrate the breadth and depth of our profession's commitment to learning the lessons of last year's fires.
- Like almost everyone else at this table, I've been on both sides of the fence. I spent 30 years as a line firefighter. I also spent six years in management as OES director, serving under Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger.
- Like everyone else, I've seen more "after-action reports" than I care to count.
- We have always learned from these reports and incorporated what we could into our standard practices.
- But all too often, the big issues are left for another day ... left until the next "big fire"
- Last year's fires showed the price we pay for failing to learn the lessons of history.
  - The loss of property 750,000 acres burned, 3,600 homes destroyed
  - The loss to our economy an estimated \$2 billion
  - The loss of life 24 people who perished during the fires, and the 16 more who died in winter floods made worse by the bare mountain sides

- The loss to our profession the death of one of our own, Steven Rucker
- As fire professionals protecting the safety of our men and women in uniform is one of our highest callings and our most deeply felt commitments.
- You wouldn't send a soldier into battle without body armor, the best arms and plenty of backup support.
- The same goes for our homeland security warriors. They need
  - Personal protective equipment that is right for the job, including wildland shelters and protective clothing for when they're forced out of the confines of their local fire department.
  - Enough all-response engines so that they can get to where the fire is sooner rather than later (TALK ABOUT FIREFIGHTERS WAITING FOR ENGINES DURING LAST YEAR'S FIRES)
  - Enough helicopters and pilots to provide the "air cover" needed to buy them time to get to the fires.
  - And yes, enough personnel to fight alongside them so that there's always someone who's "got their back" if things get too dangerous.
- I know every Californian, from the governor on down, appreciates the sacrifices made by our firefighters.
- We can't sit around waiting for the next big fire. We need to start making the hard choices now.
- The Blue Ribbon Commission Report is a solid road map toward a firesafe future.

For the sake of our firefighters as well as our citizens, it's time for us to get on down that road.

# WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY FRANK MCCARTON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES Before the CALIFORNIA JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY
October 5, 2004

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is implementing a number of measures to improve the management of and response to fire disasters. Fact finding, coordinating, and planning for implementation of improvements to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) responses in the short and long term continue. These efforts are being accomplished in coordination with state, federal, and our local partners based on recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission, lessons learned, and post fire disaster response evaluations. Over the last twelve months, OES has made significant progress in pursuing newer firefighting technologies for fire engines, promoting the statewide Fire Safe Council concept, providing training on the state and local Public Information functions, and improving the use of military assets. OES is committed to continuing our work with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local government and other stakeholders to ensure maximum coordination and effectiveness during disasters in the short and long term.

Accomplishments Over the Past Year and Short-term Recommendations:

Multi-Agency Coordination and Support

Since September 2003, OES has coordinated the federal approval of 23 Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) declarations throughout California (This does not include seven FMAGs that were consolidated into the 2003 Southern California Fire Siege - 1498-DR). The FMAG declarations allow for federal reimbursement to state and local agencies for their response to fires. These FMAG declarations will result in approximately \$87 million in federal reimbursement to state and local agencies.

OES has activated our State Operations Center three times since the 2003 Southern California Fire Siege; twice in support of federally declared disasters and once for a major statewide terrorism exercise. These activations continue to test the systems California utilizes for disasters: the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), Mutual Aid, Multi-Agency Coordination System, as well as our various communication and notification processes. This testing results in valuable lessons learned, that in turn lead to constant improvement of the associated processes and procedures. Additionally, we can assess if our response capabilities need to be updated to meet the changing physical, governmental, and social environments.

#### Communications

OES has successfully secured funding from multiple sources to modernize the Operational Area Satellite Information System (OASIS). This system is the state's satellite-based system that ensures communications among Operational Areas and state government when normal systems are disrupted or overloaded by emergencies. Under current funding, OES will modernize all existing fixed and mobile earth stations to provide improved telephone service among OASIS sites and between OASIS sites and the Public Switched Telephone Network that includes both fixed and wireless telephones worldwide. The first year effort will also provide robust access to the Internet and the various emergency information and response management systems that are accessible on the Internet. It is OES' plan to continue improvements in the next grant funding cycle to provide video teleconferencing capability, improved telephone and Internet access, and expanded support for mobile command post vehicles. OES intends to award critical contracts in November 2004 and is on track for first phase completion by November 2005.

#### Firefighting Technologies and Safety

OES has made significant progress in utilizing and promoting the use of the most current firefighting technology, such as foams and gels, to maximize the use of available resources and reduce structure loss. The process of "gelling" a structure provides a better and longer lasting barrier than water or class "A" foam. This process allows firefighters to gel the structure and move on to the next structure quickly, staying out of harms way as the fire front approaches, and covering the maximum amount of structures per fire crew. OES has purchased the necessary equipment to add this capability to approximately 50 of the 110 fire engines and 12 water tenders in our fleet that are assigned to local government. OES is currently coordinating the purchase for the remaining 72 vehicles in our fleet and should be completed by the end of the fiscal year. OES is also sharing best practices on this technology with FIRESCOPE and will work together with local agencies during statewide, regional, and county meetings to support their efforts in implementing this technology.

Firefighter safety is paramount to an effective response. The need for all engine companies responding to large WUI fires to have the appropriate safety gear is of the utmost concern for all hosting agencies. OES has been working with CDF and FIRESCOPE to develop a survey to assess the current statewide status of personal protective gear, safety, and communications equipment. The results of this statewide survey will be used to identify the gaps in equipment and should allow for an assessment of how to prioritize the target areas to achieve the greatest benefit. Significant funding could be required to properly equip the departments with the appropriate gear. The survey data can also be used for future funding requests for the local fire departments, as well as assisting the departments in finding eligible funding venues to pursue increasing their capabilities and safety standards.

#### Fire Safe Councils

OES continues its progress in furthering the understanding and utilization of the Fire Safe Councils as an active member of the Fire Alliance. The merits of citizen involvement in Fire Safe Councils have proven invaluable in reducing loss of property and lives in at-risk communities. Using federal and state grant funds matched by local resources, the Councils have significantly broadened education and awareness, improved cooperation with the fire and emergency management agencies, established programs to reduced risk and helped property owners to reduce fuel loads on private property. More than 90 local Fire Safe Councils are active in minimizing the potential for wildfire damage in California. Utilizing the combined expertise, resources and distribution channels of its members, the Fire Safe Council fulfills its mission to preserve California's natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe.

OES has assisted CDF in obtaining an \$850,000 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to help Fire Safe Councils assist communities in developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. OES will continue to support the Fire Safe Councils directly and by actively participating in the Fire Alliance efforts. OES will also continue to make fire mitigation a high priority for the use of federal funds from FEMA including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants as well as the Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). OES will also work within the context of the Fire Alliance to 1) coordinate and integrate technical, educational and financial assistance programs offered by the state and federal members of the Alliance, 2) to educate Councils and other local officials about the value, process and content of Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans and, 3) to monitor, analyze and report on the performance of the Fire Safe Council effort. The benefits anticipated from these activities are safer communities, local understanding of the risk and measures are designed to reduce the risk, constituent awareness of state efforts and broad political support for this and related initiatives.

#### Public Information

The rapid dissemination of timely and accurate disaster information to the public and key decision makers is critical. The OES Information and Public Affairs Office has hosted four Basic Public Information Officer (PIO)/Crisis Communications Seminars and a State Agency PIO Training Course during the last 12 months. The first was in Sacramento in January of this year, followed by Modesto in April, Whittier in June, and in Sacramento in August. The seminars were provided at no cost to state and local government PIOs. Among the subject areas covered in the training were Role and Function of a PIO, Basic Interview Techniques, Understanding Joint Information Centers, Working with the News Media, and Handling a Mass Fatality Incident. The trainings were attended by more than 320 state and local PIOs and received widely positive feedback. OES is currently planning two additional training seminars in December 2004, one to be held in Redding and the other in San Diego. It is anticipated that these

trainings will result in a streamlined and coordinated public information process at all levels of government.

#### Military Assets

OES has been reviewing existing procedures for the use of federal and military assets. Federal and military assets, while related, are unique and require that a clear understanding be developed for deployment. Over the last 12 months, OES has been involved in numerous discussions and meetings with the CDF, the United States Forest Service, the California National Guard, and the United States Department of Defense on the use of federal resources and clarification of the process for accessing federal and military assets. Specific areas addressed include documenting the thresholds that trigger the use of federal assets and the scope of use involving equipment and personnel; and the processes and procedures needed to secure and deploy the assets. Work continues in this area and modifications to existing agreements, emergency response plans, and procedures are being implemented.

#### Long-Term Recommendations

Completing, monitoring, and continually improving of the aforementioned recommendations will be a critical component in the future. Additionally, the pursuit of establishing reliable and continuous funding streams to fully implement aspects of the short term goals, as well as, provide the funding resources necessary to implement new recommendations will be a top priority.

#### **OES Fleet**

OES will continue its research to increase OES' Fire and Rescue fleet for local government use by compiling all information associated with purchasing, maintaining, administering, and replacing additional apparatus. This effort will provide the necessary data to assess the most effective way to increase the State's response capabilities, as well as provide a foundation for any financial considerations that must be addressed.

#### Interoperability

As part of its mission to manage Mutual Aid, OES has organized the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CALSIEC) to bring together public safety professionals from all disciplines and levels of government across the state to develop the policies that will provide the governance of existing and new shared radio channels that are used for interoperable communications by public safety entities at all levels of government throughout California. CALSIEC is assessing the current state of interoperability within California's public safety agencies operating under the state's diverse traditional Statewide Mutual Aid Radio Systems, and working with local and regional public safety communications organizations to develop a single plan for communications

interoperability that addresses the needs of California's diverse population densities and terrain.

At the direction of the Legislature, the state agencies that operate public safety radio systems have formed the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee to develop a program for the modernization of the state's public safety communications infrastructure. This committee, which has selected OES as its chair, has three objectives: 1) develop an architecture for an integrated state radio system; 2) use that architecture and cooperate with local government systems to achieve improved interoperable communications for state agencies; and 3) develop funding recommendations for the Legislature.

RIVERSIDE OFFICE: 4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor Mailing Address: P.O.Box 1486 Riverside, CA 92502-1486 (909) 955-1030 Fax (909) 955-2194 Valerie Chase, Board Assistant



Mary Moreland

Ken Graff

Elaine Johnson Legislative Assistant

Nancy Maich

Tina Grande

September 27, 2004

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Chair Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security Attention: Royce Saunders 1020 N Street, Suite 539 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Saunders:

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 21, 2004, requesting my appearance and testimony at the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security hearing on Tuesday, October 5, 2004. I am unable to attend due to a calendar conflict, but please accept this letter as my written testimony.

#### 1. Accomplishments over the past year(s) in addressing wildland-urban interface fires.

Riverside County has taken the lead since 2002 to address our devastating tree mortality situation, which has added to our County's ever present wildland urban interface (WUI) fire danger. From the time we declared a Local Emergency in March, 2002, we have invested County funding to help remove dead and dying trees around property and along evacuation routes. We have actively lobbied for additional state and federal dollars, and have now partnered with U.S. Forest Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Natural Conservation Resource Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Southern California Edison to remove over 15,000 trees. We have purchased generators, chippers and other needed emergency supplies. We have embarked on an ongoing public education process to help people understand the importance of clearing around their property. We formed the Mountain Area Safety Task Force, also in 2002, and this group continues to meet on a monthly basis to do pre-event planning. The most recent undertaking was an evacuation drill that involved all responders and stakeholders. We also are actively seeking grant funding to help us purchase a Reverse 9-1-1 notification system to assist us in the event of a major evacuation.

In addition, my staff routinely is involved in a variety of local government pre-planning meetings to address the WUI situation, and we were instrumental in the first county "resolution" in support of the California State Association of Counties and League of Cities WUI process. We fully understand and support the fact that these issues are very broad and are more than just the responsibility of the fire service. We have been completely engaged in the process of bringing planning staff, community based organization, the media and elected officials together with our fire fighting professionals to tackle this problem.

HEMET OFFICE: 43950 Acacia, Suite A Hemet, CA 92544 (909) 791-3600 • Fax (909) 791-3610 Diana Jenkins, Board Assistant

INTERNET: district3@rcbos.org

FRENCH VALLEY OFFICE: 37552 Winchester Road Murrieta, CA 92563 (909) 461-3258 • Fax (909) 698-7920 Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant Ginny Bollinger, Board Assistant Page 2
 September 27, 2004

#### 2. Short term recommendations.

We need to continue to find ways to bring all stakeholders to the table to get buy in for proactive, rather than reactive, planning. Starting with land use issues (i.e. fire retardant building materials and plants to proper clearance) and code enforcement, we need to make these things a priority. We also need to get our Reverse 9-1-1 system on line if possible, and are urging OES and FEMA to consider our Hazard Mitigation Grant request. We also plan to have additional table top and full scale exercises to train on proper response techniques, and will continue our public education thrust.

#### 3. Long term recommendations.

We need to continue all of the above mentioned items, and also begin to work on overall forest health. We need to continue to lobby our federal elected officials to support continued financial support for not only removing dead trees but also for funding reforestation measures.

Sincerely,

Jim Venable

Supervisor, Third District County of Riverside

JV:dj

#### 1288-S

Additional copies of this publication may be purchased for \$8.00 per copy (includes shipping and handling), plus current California sales tax.

#### **Senate Publications**

1020 N Street, Room B-53 Sacramento, CA 95814 916/327-2155

Make checks or money orders payable to **SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**. **Credit cards not accepted**Please include stock # **1288-S** when ordering.